

LESSONS LEARNED
90-1

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Contractor Fatality
Type of Work: Surveying potential work areas
Equipment: None
Contract Type: Construction
Safety Equipment: Rebar caps (not used)
OSHA Investigation: Cited by OSHA and fined for safety violations

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A contractor was walking around building under construction when he decided to enter the building by walking up a 2"x12" unstable plank leading into the north entrance. He fell from the plank onto two reinforcement rods three feet high by 1/2" thick. He sustained fatal puncture wounds. Protective rebar caps were not in use at the time.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

- a. Applicable safety requirements in EM 385-1-1 include:
- (1) Persons shall not be permitted to work above or in positions exposed to protruding reinforcing steel or other impalement hazards unless provisions have been made to minimize the hazard (07.A.29)
 - (2) The width of all ramps and runways shall be at least 18 inches (22.A.07)
 - (3) Planking shall be supported or braced to prevent deflection and secured to prevent tipping or displacement (22.A.14)
 - (4) Standard guardrails must be installed when there is a drop of six feet or more or when working over dangerous operations (22.A.18)

ACTUAL CONTRACT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- a. Included in the contract clauses was the FAR clause 52.236-13 accident prevention, which required compliance with all safety provisions of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Manual EM 385-1-1.

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